

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas comprising:

a carrier, and

a catalyst layer containing an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal, the catalyst layer being loaded on the carrier,

in which catalyst said carrier is a honeycomb carrier having thin partition walls and through-holes defined by the partition walls and said partition walls contain ~~contains~~ Si in an amount of 0.5 to 10.0% by weight as expressed as an oxide sufficient to prevent deterioration of the honeycomb carrier.

2. (Previously Presented) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein said carrier contains Si in an amount of 1.0 to 6.0% by weight as expressed as an oxide.

3. (Original) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier has a thermal expansion coefficient of  $6.0 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  or less.

4. (Previously Presented) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein said carrier is aluminum titanate.

5. (Previously Presented) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 4, wherein said carrier further contains Mg and/or Fe.

6. (Original) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein the catalyst layer contains K.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A catalyst for purification of exhaust gas according to Claim 1, wherein the catalyst layer contains at least one kind of noble metal selected from Pt, Pd and Rh.